



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Iyyar+Sivan+Tamuz 5774 ■ May+June 2014

CSZ's 10th Annual Pride Freedom Seder! Friday, June 27, 5:30 pm

"What's a Pride Freedom Seder? I thought we only had seders at Passover."

The Pride Freedom Seder is a new ritual that has been observed in LGBT Jewish communities everywhere from Vienna to New York to Sydney. Held during Pride Week, Pride Seders adapt the ancient rituals through which we tell the story of our liberation from Egypt in order to commemorate and celebrate the liberation of our people since the Stonewall Uprising in 1969. Sha'ar Zahav held our first Pride Seder in 2004.

"Is there a special Haggadah for this new observance?"

Yes. Our Haggadah was inspired by and incorporates material from a text created by members of B'nai Jeshurun in New York City, but most of it was written 10 years ago by more than 20 CSZ members. It contains prayers and blessings, poems and stories that carry us from past to future. Every year the Haggadah shifts and changes, so even if you've come before we can promise you that this seder will be different.

"In what other ways will this seder be different from all other seders?"

As we do at a Passover seder, we'll drink several glasses of a ritual beverage, but it won't be wine or juice. And while there will be a seder plate at our Pride Freedom Seder, the items on it will also be different from the ones we use at Passover. And this year we will be having several guests of honor – the members of the board of directors of the World Congress of GLBT Jews: Keshet Ga'avah who will be coming from around the world to meet for the week-end at Sha'ar Zahav.

So if you're looking for a new way to celebrate or looking forward to coming back to our evolving seder, please join our guests of honor, bring your own guests and come celebrate with us. Our seder will be held right before Pride Shabbat services – the perfect way to begin Pride Week.

Please bring a vegetarian dish to feed eight people. Sha'ar Zahav will supply drinks. A \$5 donation for members, \$10 for non-members is requested to cover materials. Please RSVP by June 16 by calling or emailing the office at 415-861-6932 or office@shaarzahav.org.

World Congress Board of Directors to Meet at Sha'ar Zahav

BY JONATHAN FALK,
Secretary, World Congress of GLBT Jews
secretary@glbtjews.org



The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews: Keshet Ga'avah, will be holding its annual board meeting in San Francisco at the end of June, 2014, coinciding with the Sha'ar Zahav's Pride Seder and the San Francisco Pride celebration.

The World Congress dates our history to 1975, when a loose network of then-gay and lesbian synagogues and other Jewish organizations met in New York as a response to the United Nation's anti-Zionism resolution. Annual and later biennial International Conferences followed, allowing gay and lesbian Jews from the United States and around the world to meet, network and face common challenges together. The organization was formally incorporated in 1980 in San Francisco as the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Organizations, a California non-profit corporation.

Since then, the organization has changed its name several times and is now known as the World (continued on page 11)

A Sacred Encounter



The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality
edited by Rabbi Lisa Grushcow

I AM excited to share with you the recent CCAR publication, *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*. Heftier than *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*, it is the most comprehensive study of Jewish ideas about sexuality ever published.

This wide-ranging anthology takes a close look at the breadth of human sexuality from a Jewish perspective. The essays begin with a look at biblical and rabbinic views on sexuality, and then proceed to explorations of sexuality at different moments in the life cycle, sexuality and the marital model, diverse expressions of sexuality, examples of sexuality education, the nexus of sexuality and theology, and the challenges of contemporary sexual ethics.

The diversity of the contributors is noteworthy in every way including that the voices are scholarly and personal and sometimes both. Significant attention is paid to LGBTQ issues and Jewish attitudes toward non-heterosexual dimensions of human sexuality. "Eroticisms of all types are addressed" and sexual intimacy and sexual boundary transgressions are among the provocative topics considered.

Among the nearly seventy authors, you'll likely recognize many names of great teachers, who have studied with us at Sha'ar Zahav, including Rabbi Steven Greenberg, "The Real Sin of Sodom," Rabbi Elliot Kukla, "Created by the Hand of Heaven: Sex, Love and the Androgynos," Rabbi Jane Litman, "'Bisexual' Identity: A Guide for the Perplexed," and Jay Michaelson, PhD, "Queering Teshuvah for Everyone."

In the chapter titled "Crafting and Inclusive Liturgical Mirror," I have the privilege of telling my narrative and sharing my pride in our pioneering prayer book, *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*. Quoting from prayer passages written by you, our congregants, I show how the words we hold in our hands resonate so much more often when they describe our real life experience and our authentic aspirations.

As I wrote in the essay, "I am inspired to believe that

change for the better is possible each time I hold this heavy prayer book in my hands. ... Sha'ar Zahav's elegant, 'home-made' *siddur* is a *tikun*, a corrective to the historical Jewish (and Judeo-Christian) damnation of same-sex erotic desire and relationships."

Rabbi Jeffrey Brown's essay, "Preaching Against the Text: An Argument in Favor of Restoring Leviticus 18 to Yom Kippur Afternoon" is particularly provocative. Brown (whose research included interviews with some of our members) suggests that rather than ignore the text, a "homiletic strategy" of writing drashes about this part of the Torah enables us to clarify our values and begin to fix a text that seems inherently broken.

Adult Learning with Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

Thursday, June 12, 7-9 pm

Having read Rabbi Lisa Grushcow's brilliant essay, "Spirit of Jealousy, Spirit of Holiness: Timeless Insights from a Time-Bound Text" from *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality* prior to the class, participants will discuss the nature of intimacy and vulnerability, jealousy and uncertainty.

The class is free but you must pre-register at rabbicamilleangel@gmail.com by June 2 in order to get materials and class location

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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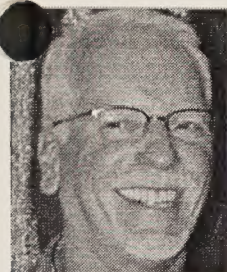
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THIS IS IT. The final column of my two-year presidency. I remember fretting for a couple of months about what I was going to write in my first JGF column in July 2012. Eleven issues later and I still stare at a blank screen waiting for inspiration. Sooner or later, ideas came to me, though usually not from a blank screen. The themes for two of my columns came from listening to the radio, other ideas came from a presidential inauguration, and still others came from programs the congregation was planning or from something I had read. For this column I've been inspired by reflecting on the past two years and also by a thought provoking book review.

The *Washington Post* recently reviewed Brigid Schulte's book *Overwhelmed: Work, Love and Play When No One Has the Time*. The author focuses on a disturbing trend in America in which keeping up with the Joneses no longer means displaying the same material trappings of success as one's neighbors, but now means working as many hours as they do. Life has become an exhausting marathon in which people are too busy to make friends outside the office, too busy to date, too busy to take a vacation, too busy to sleep.

This workaholic pace is the absolute opposite of what had been predicted for the 21st century. In the 1930s, economist John Maynard Keynes postulated that, by the year 2030, the work week would shrink to 15 hours. In the 1950s, the predictions regarding the way we would live in 1990 figured a 22-hour work week and retirement at age 40 would be standard. Given Schulte's analysis, these predictions of the future didn't stand a chance of materializing.

During the past two years, I've learned about predictions that never came to fruition. I had my own sense of where Congregation Sha'ar Zahav would be in 2014 as I set goals for my presidency. An important lesson of leadership comes in understanding that the president sets a direction to steer the ship, but must also accept how tides and currents affect navigation.

There are equally important lessons of leadership found in Torah. In Parshat Yitro, Moses received a management con-

sultant's analysis from his father-in-law to delegate responsibilities. I've been blessed to work with a superb team of officers and at-large Va'ad members who have consistently shared the tasks of leadership. I am deeply indebted to this team for the dedication and support they have shown for our synagogue.

At the end of Deuteronomy, Moses turns over the reins of leadership to Joshua. Transitions in the Torah are another important aspect of leadership, just as they are in our congregation. In June I'll retire from the presidency and a new team of "Joshuas" will take over. I'll join the ranks of past presidents. To this group of tribal elders I also owe a great deal of thanks. Their unfailing concern and commitment have truly lightened the load I've carried the past two years.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the clergy and staff who tend to everything from our spiritual well-being, to ensuring that the bills are paid, to keeping the flow of events in the building running smoothly. Lay leadership could not survive without their help and guidance.

Thinking about the volunteer hours that have been so evident during my tenure, brings me full circle back to the book review I cited at the beginning. Either the author is wrong in her thesis or Sha'ar Zahav's community stands apart from the norm. There seems to be a different reality at CSZ that allows our members to compile a world-renowned siddur during their volunteer time, a different reality that allows chavurot to create meaningful new bonds between members during non-working hours, a different reality that encourages members to serve as b'nei mitzvah tutors to nurture a new generation of confident students, a different reality that allows members to set aside time to bake sumptuous treats for our Shabbat onegs. These types of vibrant volunteer activities don't typify overworked individuals who are too busy to sleep and who log 80 hours of work per week to keep up with their neighbors' overworked lifestyle. They do typify Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

I am so proud of the many ways in which we are different and so honored to have been called to serve my community. Thank you for this opportunity.

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The Synagogue that Saved My Life

BY AARON COOPER

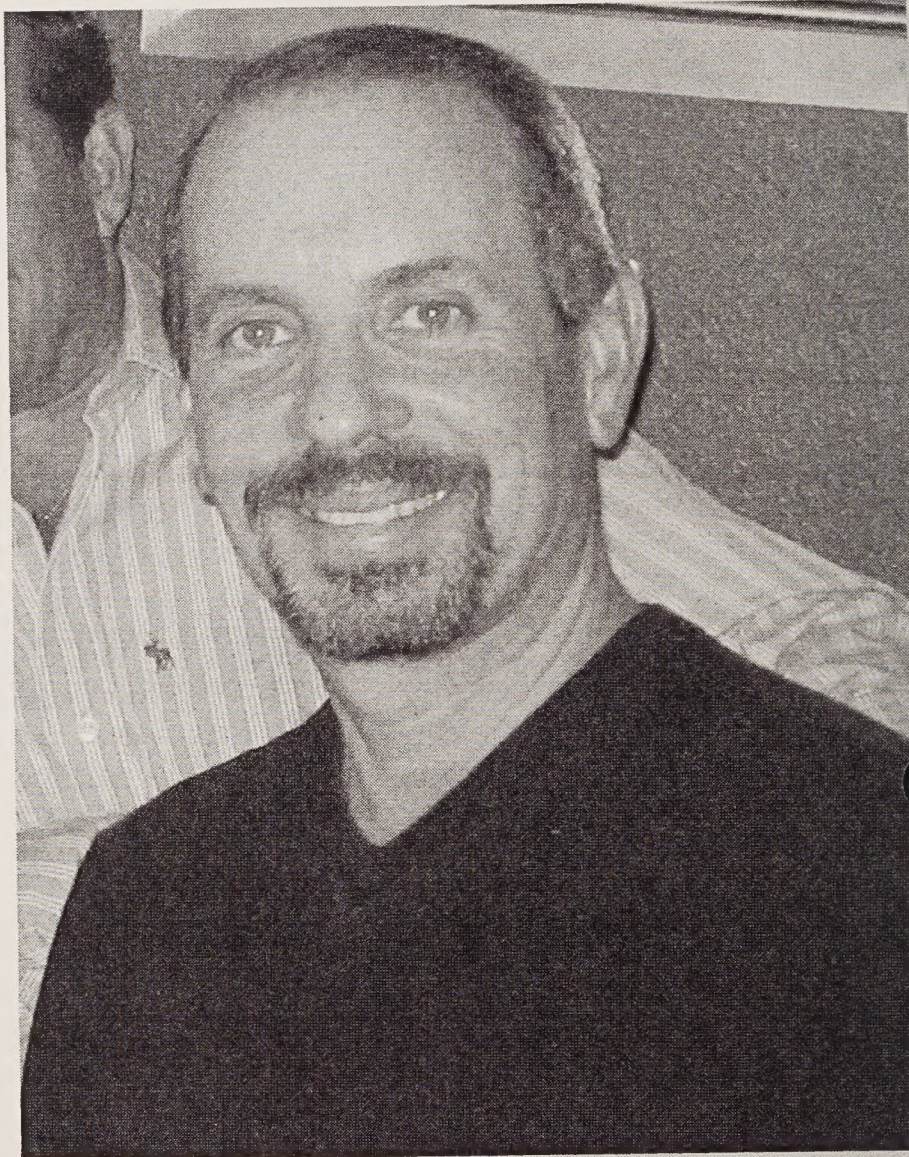
Would it be an overstatement to say that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav saved my life? I think not.

In 1979, the year I fled from my homophobic parents in Chicago and arrived in San Francisco with \$4,000 and little else, knowing no one, I had only my naïve hope, a deep well of confidence and a graduate degree in psychology to sustain me. What was I seeking? Love, I'm sure of that. Safety, too, shielded from my parents' disapproving glare. But more so – I couldn't have articulated it at the time – a sense of wholeness. Of identity blending all the important dimensions of who I knew myself to be.

Distant family connections fortuitously led me to a fellow psychologist named Allan Gold, who invited me to be a roommate in his upcoming new flat. Jews both of us, we agreed to visit that gay congregation on the other side of town. I sensed that synagogue blinking powerfully on my radar, even before I walked through its doors. Secretly, I harbored the fantasy of finding a Jewish partner, despite falling heavily for one of Allan's friends who helped schlep boxes on move-in day, a gentle Unitarian soul who became my boyfriend for three years. The Jewish partner would come later.

On the Friday night when I first entered CSZ's early home within the Jewish Community Center and found myself among other gay and lesbian refugees from America's (and England's) urban centers, my breath shifted. A different kind of air came into my lungs, expansion supplanting contraction. Leaving family and hometown had left me unmoored from Judaism, both community and practice. Sha'ar Zahav returned that to me, plus the promise that my gay identity – still unfolding, seeking more than quick tricks and Saturday night discos – might also blossom in this new world.

And that was the magic of Sha'ar Zahav: offering a place, a contemporary *mishkan* in which to nurture one lifelong aspect of who I was...while allowing me to expand and delight in my newer dimension as a gay man. Like a tether tossed to me on uncertain seas, Sha'ar Zahav saved my life. I returned, Friday night after Friday night, holding tight to a community that gave back more than it received from me.



Three years after that fateful beginning, Eric Keitel and I – CSZ members circling one another surreptitiously for much of that time – became a couple. Thirty-one anniversaries later, we're still a couple, occasionally reviewing our Last Will & Testament. And with each review, every few years, I'm never surprised to feel the quiet joy when my eyes land on our grateful bequest to the synagogue that saved my life.

Legacy Letters of Intent

Tiela Chalmers has joined our members and friends in submitting a letter

See the list of current participants on page 14

Taking Our Activism Global!

Gathering around the seder table and telling the story of how our people journeyed from slavery to liberation thousands of years ago has always inspired me to work for the liberation of my queer tribe. We know that the freedoms we enjoy are on account of the transformative changes our forebears wrought; heroic risk takers in our own community like Supervisor Harvey Milk, z"l, and Roberta Achtenberg, to name just two.

This year at my seder table, the sense of freedom felt more palpable than I can ever recall. My heart sang out proud with songs of praise, thanking God for keeping me alive and sustaining me and enabling me to experience a new springtime in which more gays and lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people are free to be themselves than ever before; that is, if you are lucky enough to live in one of the 17 states in the United States of America plus Washington, D.C. where the freedom to marry for same-sex couples is protected by law or in other parts of the world where same sex marriage is legally recognized.

The sad paradox, however, is that while there is a new liberation for some, worldwide there is a backlash of increased violence and persecution against LGBT people as well as all women and girls. The statistics are horrifying. The American Jewish World Service reports, "Women make up nearly 70% of the world's absolute poor – those living on less than a dollar a day. One in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse. Women ages 15 to 44 are as likely to die from violence as from cancer."

We've just read in our Haggadah that we are to invite all who are in need to share the hope of Passover. Our Judaism calls us to take global action to help the oppressed so that all may enjoy the blessings of freedom.

And the good news is that we *already are engaged*. Daily, I take hope from the inspiring work of so many justice activists in our community. Our member Julie Dorf, who was the founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, currently works with the Council for Global Equality. Her work helps to ensure the Obama Administration responds robustly and appropriately to the many instances of abuses of the basic human rights of LGBT people around the world. She has been reporting to me about the spread of Russian-style anti-propaganda laws in the former Soviet regions, the further criminalization of LGBT people in Nigeria and Uganda and how these new regressive laws are terrifying entire LGBT communities, as well as fomenting vicious hate crimes against some.

Michael Chertok helps lead a social business that works in Kenya, Cambodia and other countries to create work and education opportunities for youth from very poor families. This enterprise employs young women and men in a first job and supports their higher education. As a result, they are able to access professional jobs to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

In February, Tiela Chalmers, CSZ Past President, spoke to us about the work of ORAM – Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration – an organization that advocates for LGBT refugees, fleeing persecution. Founded by Neil Grungras, a former member of CSZ, ORAM advocates on behalf of LGBT refugees worldwide. Many LGBT people flee persecution, because of their gender expression and sexual identity in their countries of origin – only to find themselves still facing persecution in neighboring countries. Seeking refugee status and resettlement to the few countries that accept refugees, these brave individuals face sometimes hostile questions: "Can't you just pretend you're straight?" "Why are you going against the Bible?" Having lost their families, friends and familiar surroundings, refugees often spend years and even decades living in limbo. ORAM works to make their journeys shorter and less traumatic.

These are three great examples among many others of you, who are working in medicine, government, HIV/AIDS research, arts and education and more, to bring change and deep healing to the world, to make tikun olam real. Thank you for doing what you do. You bring honor to the Jewish people.

Inspired by your stories over many years, and compelled by the American Jewish World Services' new campaign, "We Believe," I applied for, and was selected to be, a Global Justice Rabbinic Fellow for the 2014-2015 year. The We Believe campaign is bringing a heightened attention to the need to end violence against women and girls, end child marriage and stop hate crimes against LGBT people. It is a campaign that, like Passover, allows us to combine our beliefs and our actions. And, like Passover, it is committed to the spirit of freedom and justice. Believe with me!

With Shabbat Freedom (Pride Shabbat) soon approaching, now is the time to recommit to doing everything in our power to help those who are living with the constant threat of violence and injustice. As long as there is human suffering anywhere on earth, none of us is free.

Music in the Mishkan

Join us for our last concert of the season
on Sunday, June 1st at 4pm

"Rhythm" with Marilyn Thompson, piano, Randall Weiss, violin, Robert Howard, cello, Sharon Bernstein, soprano

🎵 Piano Trio in G major, Op. 1, No. 2—Ludwig van Beethoven

🎵 Great Yiddish Poets in Song—Mark Warshawsky

🎵 Piano Trio in F minor, Op. 65—Antonin Dvorak

More than Education



TWO YEARS AGO, we began a program where non-members could enroll their children in Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer. We have welcomed many new Beit Sefer families into our school community. I enjoy having these new families, getting to know them and introducing their children to Jewish education. There is, however, so much more to a synagogue than just Jewish education for children.

A synagogue community offers:

- Support during lifecycle events including baby namings, weddings and funerals
- Access to our Rabbi, Camille Shira Angel, and our Cantor, Sharon Bernstein, for study, coaching and pastoral counseling
- Adult Jewish education (e.g., attend workshops, classes and speaker series on topics such as spirituality, the environment, poetry, current events)
- BSPM's b'nei mitzvah program

The voices of actively engaged members speak to the joys of CSZ membership:

Joining Congregation Sha'ar Zahav connected our family to an inclusive, supportive community that has provided our son with an excellent foundation in Judaism. The school is our main connection to the congregation, but it could not exist without the infrastructure and the resources provided by the broader Sha'ar Zahav community. As members, we proudly support the congregation which in turn helps the school continue providing amazing Jewish education for our son and his peers. It also helps teach him that we are all part of the synagogue community which benefits from our involvement as much as we benefit from its commitment to us. — Julia Weber

Lauren and I have been members of CSZ since 1992 and, as a couple, we enjoyed going to Friday night Shabbat services in the City, and being part of the East Bay chavurah, where we met some of the people who have become our closest friends in the shul. Once we had kids, it was much harder to attend Friday night services, and the religious school has given us a way to remain connected to synagogue life as a family. But the ultimate goal of the religious school experience for us is to raise young Jewish adults who can participate in the life of the community, so that we can return, as a family, to the Friday night services that we loved, and which always give us a sense of the wider community of queer and queer-friendly Jews—including those without children. Religious life is about life as a part of a larger community, and our long-standing membership at CSZ reflects that. — Hilary Zaid

Eric and I were introduced to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav through friends who brought us to High Holiday Services. For

many years, we loved spending High Holidays with friends at CSZ. And then, we had kids . . . And brought them to childcare while we happily sat in services. And then, we began to realize that though High Holiday Services felt like home, we never had a chance to connect with the community in an ongoing way. We felt like we belonged but only for a short period during the fall. Together we realized that it was time to join the community, really get to know people - the congregants and the spiritual leaders, and partake of all the CSZ programs. We have been members for over 10 years now, and have loved the generous spirit of the community, Saturday circles at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer, the empowering and loving B'nei Mitzvah process for our children, and, of course, the beauty and spirituality of the High Holiday Services - Beth Rubenstein

I teach our students that one of the greatest mitzvot is being a part of a community. Synagogue membership models for our children the value of investing in Jewish institutions. It also can be a great life lesson in the adage of "what you put in, is what you get out." It seems clear that the deeper one's involvement is in synagogue life the more meaningful it becomes for the congregant.

I know that the Jewish world that my students will inhabit is often outside of institutional life. I also know, however, that as their worlds become increasingly distanced and virtual, there is no substitute for intimate, present community to hold you through *simchas* (joys) and sorrows. It is up to our generation to sustain these institutions so that our youth have a place to come home to. And as we know, there is no place like home, especially a home lit up like a golden gate.

Upcoming Special Services

RUACH CHANT AND SACRED DANCE

co sponsored with Keshet

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD FROM 7 - 10 PM

7pm - Havdalah

7:15pm - Chanting

7:30pm - Dance

9:45pm - Chanting

\$15 cash at door (sliding scale)

GRADUATION SHABBAT

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH AT 7:30PM

Honoring the 2014 High School graduates

Introducing the Bat Mitzvah

Sophia Rose Katz

Sophie will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 3, 2014. Sophie lives in Oakland on a small urban farm inspired by her love of the *Little House* series. Contemplating a life as an artist/rancher/farmer, she is learning all that she can about animal husbandry. Along with her brother Abe, Sophie is a member of the Montclair 4H and shows her dairy goats at the Alameda County Fair each summer. Food that is raised humanely and sustainably is one of her primary passions – so much so that she delivers the family Thanksgiving turkey to the table after having raised it from a poult.

Art is central to Sophie's life. She deeply appreciates literature and music and they are the source of much inspiration for her, but Sophie is most at peace when creating visual art.

Sophie has focused on the concept of *tzedak* (justice) for her various mitzvah projects – with an emphasis on food justice.

She is thrilled to celebrate her first aliyah with her friends, classmates from Contra Costa Jewish Day School and BSPM,

family and teachers. Sophie and her family are thankful to her mentors, Sue Bojdak, Rebecca Weiner, Rabbi Angel, Cantor Bernstein and the B'nei Mitzvah Chavurah for their love, support and teaching throughout this process.



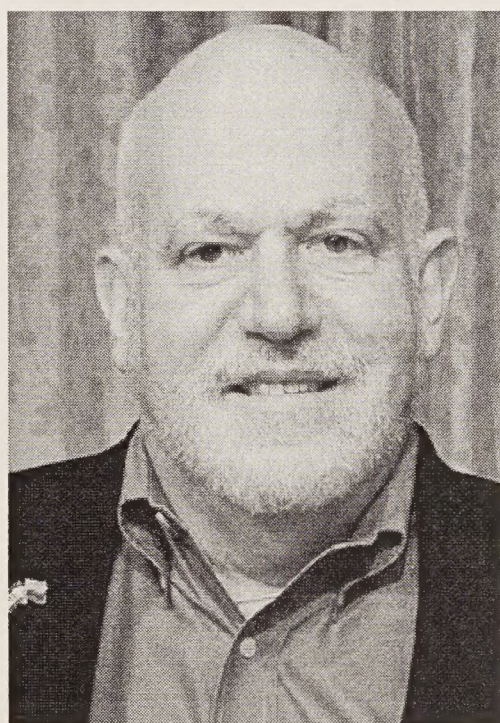
A Wider Bridge An Interview with Arthur Slepian

BY RON LEZELL, Treasurer of the AWB board

Many of you know Arthur Slepian very well. A leader of CSZ for more than 20 years, a past CSZ president and married to Gerry Llamado, Arthur's passion for Jewish peoplehood and making positive contributions to the progressive Jewish world is clear by his serving on several Jewish-related boards and founding A Wider Bridge, for which he is its Executive Director.

Tell us a bit about A Wider Bridge. What does it do, and why?

A Wider Bridge is a pro-Israel organization that works to build bridges between Israelis and LGBTQ North Americans and allies. We began in San Francisco four years ago, have staff now also in Los Angeles and New York City and our board Chair is Steven Goldstein, the founder of Garden State Equality. In partnership with other organizations, we bring LGBTQ leaders, artists and activists from Israel to the U.S. to tell their stories and share their work. We lead an annual LGBTQ trip to Israel and co-sponsor other such trips that introduce our participants to the his-



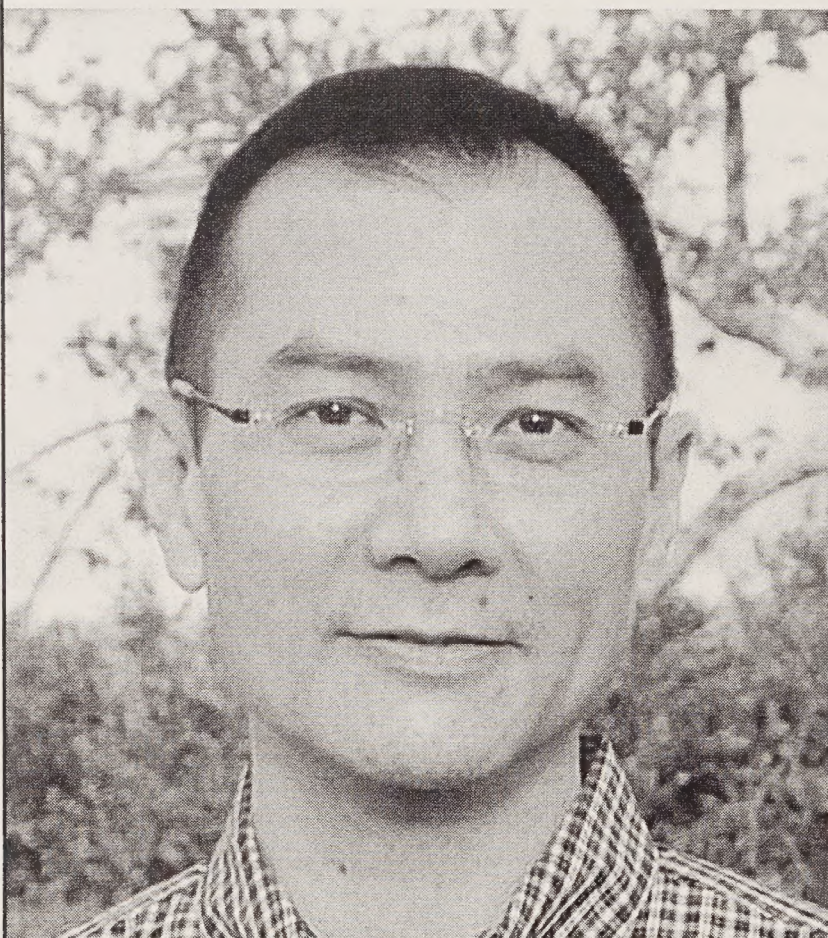
tory, beauty and complexity of Israel, provide opportunities for engagement and connection with Israel's diverse LGBTQ communities, and build lasting community among our participants. And our very popular website, awider-bridge.org, is an online magazine that explores the intersection of Jewish and LGBTQ life in

Israel, North America, and around the world.

AWB is helping LGBTQ Jews and allies to reclaim Israel as their homeland too, to see that there is a place for us in the Jewish peoplehood, and that we all have a

(continued on page 14)

Why I Chose Judaism



BY GERRY LLAMADO

I had been coming to services at Sha'ar Zahav for more than a decade before I made the decision to choose Judaism for myself. Sha'ar Zahav was the first place I had a positive experience as part of a spiritual community. During those years I fell in love with the rituals and with the warmth and inclusiveness of the community. I was drawn by and valued the depth of the teaching and learning that was possible here. I was raised as a Catholic in the Philippines, and I had never experienced a religious community in which it was acceptable to question and argue with the teachings. Nor had I experienced a religious community

in which it was acceptable to be gay. And Sha'ar Zahav is more than that, it is a place where our LGBTQ identities are celebrated.

I also discovered that I was a cultural Jew in so many ways. I found that I loved the music of The Barry Sisters, Chava Alberstein and Matisyahu. When I travel to New York, I find myself drawn to the Lower East Side, to Katz's Deli, Russ and Daughters and Yonah Schimmel's knishes. Few things please me more than a good pastrami sandwich. No one was happier than I was when Wise Sons Deli arrived in San Francisco.

When I traveled to Israel for the first time in 2005, with my husband Arthur, Rabbi Angel and a great group from CSZ, I fell in love with the country. It felt like it could be my home. Early on I sometimes felt out of place as an Asian at CSZ where it seems that most everyone has their ancestry in Eastern Europe or Brooklyn. When I traveled around Israel, however, I was amazed at all the colors of Jews that I saw. There were Moroccan Jews, Ethiopian Jews, Iraqi Jews; I realized that this Jewish family was big enough and diverse enough to include me. I felt inspired and challenged by the diversity and complexity of Jewish life in Israel. It was during this amazing trip that I made the decision to start the formal journey to Judaism.

I was drawn to Judaism because it celebrates freedom. My favorite holiday is Passover because I love the story of liberation and what it continues to mean for us today. I grew up in the Philippines under the Marcos dictatorship. I remember taking to the streets with thousands of others as part of the People Power Revolution in 1986. Freedom is not something I take for granted.

It has been six years since I completed my conversion. I love having a Jewish home in which Arthur and I light Shabbat candles together. This shared religion has drawn us even closer together. I continue to learn and grow as part of the Sha'ar Zahav community. My Jewish identity continues to evolve. I feel very blessed to be Asher Gershom, someone who was once a stranger and was welcomed into the covenant.

Shavuot

Also known as the Feast of Weeks,
the Festival of the First Fruits,
The Time of Giving of Our Torah

Tuesday, June 3rd at 7pm

Dairy Dinner Potluck followed by a festival service and
Tikkun Leil Shavuot (an evening of study)

Wednesday, June 4th at 10 am

Festival service with Yizkor

Experiences in Israel

● *An Alternative Spring Break Trip*

BY ELLIOTT VOGEL

As our group of 18- to 30-year-olds on a Jewish National Fund's (JNF) Alternative Spring Break trip walked through the quiet streets of Jerusalem on Shabbat – a final look at the city as we prepared for the flight home to LA – we picked fresh rosemary to use in our Havdalah prayers. We played ultimate Frisbee in a nearby park with a group of Israelis and Americans living in Jerusalem. And we stopped at the Knesset and Supreme Court buildings, where our guard and medic, Ido, took pictures of us and answered questions about his license to carry a firearm after being stopped by a local policeman. These smaller details, ordinary in their scope and impact, are my last memories from a recent week's stay in Israel.

As a first-time visitor to *Eretz Yisrael* (Land of Israel), most of my impressions, I feel, have yet to sink in, but the connections I made with Israelis we met on our journey, with the land of Israel itself, and with other members of my group, will surely have an impact on me as a Jewish adult.

Kibbutz Shomrat, in the Galil, served as home base for the



first three days of our trip. Our group was comprised of eight Americans and two Israelis. Lior Chacham, our Israeli guide, led us in introductory games, while Jessica Leibovitz, our trip leader from the JNF, explained to us various “action areas” that serve as part of JNF’s broader mission, from water recycling & reclamation, to education & support of therapeutic services, to forestry and fire prevention. As a first time visitor, I could not have asked for more knowledgeable guides to give us an introduction to the people, the land and history of the state of Israel.

Pulling weeds at the nature preserve at Yokneam, we were exposed to a vast, abundant farmland that now serves as a place for people living with disabilities to come and experience the outdoors, as well as perform basic tasks like gardening and receive education about ancient farming practices. The site, administered by a nonprofit that partners with JNF called Lotem, even has a fully wheelchair accessible winepress, which sits atop a hill with a gorgeous view of the countryside. One of the site’s caregivers, Aviv, and I talked about the importance of disability rights and accessibility both in the United States and Israel, and the ability of nonprofits to help leverage change.

Just down the road, at Nahal Hashofet, we met with Raz, who at eight years old was in a near-fatal car accident and is now confined to a wheelchair. He led our group on a nature walk through the first fully wheelchair accessible hiking trail in Israel, stopping intermittently to teach us about local plants, manmade caves at the site and to chide us about taking too many “selfies.”

Despite being gone for only a week, my sense of time was perceptibly altered during my time in Israel. Arriving in Jerusalem, I witnessed religious life in the old city with my roommate, Jason, on our first night in the city.

On our last day of the trip, on Shabbat, (continued on page 12)



Noodle Kugel

A recipe from Jonathan Funk, one of our long-time members. What could be more delicious on a cold summer day in San Francisco than some warm, home-cooked kugel. Enjoy!!

168 KUGELS

MOM'S NOODLE KUGEL

Mom's noodle kugel was and still is the treat that graces my parents' home on Shabbat and at holiday time. Its warm, sweet aroma pervaded the house and invited us to the table to celebrate our religious traditions together, as a family. Somehow, there was always enough left over for me to take a "care package" back to school with me, or -- later -- back to my new home in San Francisco.

1 pound 1/4-inch noodles, cooked according to package directions and drained

6 tablespoons vegetable oil
6 eggs, well beaten
1 cup raisins
3/4 cup honey
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 20-ounce can unsweetened crushed pineapple

Serves 16 to 20

1 1/4 hours to prepare

Jonathan Funk

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Oil a sixteen by ten-inch baking pan or two smaller pans.
- Mix the remaining ingredients together in a large bowl. Add the noodles and mix well.
- Pour into the prepared pan(s).
- Bake for approximately one hour.

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World Congress Board of Directors to Meet at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Jews: **Shet Ga'avah**. The Hebrew name means "rainbow of pride" and reflects the importance of Israel to our organization. We have member organizations worldwide and hold annual board meetings as well as both regional and world conferences. Our most recent World Conferences were held in Winnipeg in 2013 and in Los Angeles in 2010. The World Congress's mission is to be the worldwide voice of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Jews.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has played a critical role in the World Congress, especially in its early years. World Congress leaders from Sha'ar Zahav have included: Aaron Cooper, executive director, 1983-87; Eric Keitel, president, 1989-1990; and David Gellman, president, 2006-07. Sha'ar Zahav has hosted the 5th and 12th International Conferences in 1980 and 1991 respectively, along with several regional conferences.

As the World Congress plans its board meeting in San Francisco this June, President Howard Solomon commented, "It will be a pleasure to be back in San Francisco hosted by our friends at Sha'ar Zahav. I have been to their congregation many times and it is always a welcoming and enjoyable experience." We are looking forward to connecting with our friends and colleagues there, planning future conferences and re-establishing ourselves as world leaders in tikkun

olam, making the world a better place for LGBT Jews. Sha'ar Zahav members are invited to join the World Congress board members for the following events:

Visit to the Contemporary Jewish Museum and picnic dinner, Thursday evening, June 26

Participate in the Pride seder, Friday evening, June 27

Be an observer at the board meeting on June 26/27, 9am-5pm. Thursday's meeting will be at the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco's downtown office (121 Steuart St.); you will need to RSVP in advance. Friday's meeting will be at Sha'ar Zahav.

Membership in the World Congress is open to organizations and individuals. Visit the website at gltjews.org and support LGBT Jews around the world!

Installation of Officers and Va'ad

Friday, July 11th at 7:30 pm

Drash by Incoming President, Laura Lowe

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David Gellman
DGellman@g3mh.com

Arthur Meirson
AMeirson@g3mh.com

Experiences in Israel

(continued from page 9)

I attended an orthodox service catering to Americans staying in the Jerusalem, where a *mechitza* (wall) was erected to separate male and female congregants and the rabbi's sermon was given in English. We listened to the rabbi speak about the blessing for the new moon and the importance of the month of Nissan in the Jewish calendar. As he spoke of G-d's "giving" of the month of Nissan to the Jewish people as a time for renewal, I reflected on my own time in Israel, brief as it was.

Having learned about, and had the opportunity to work on, exciting projects through local nonprofit agencies and the JNF, I was given the ability to glimpse parts of Israel not nor-

mally accessible to a Westerner on their first trip to the country. The opportunities I had for meeting ordinary Israeli citizens, for seeing the countryside and some of the city life awoke in me a part of my Jewish identity I had not previously experienced.

Not having been raised particularly Jewish, I considered the value of "raising one's children to be Jewish" for perhaps the first time in my adult life. I talked with my group about how reading Jewish books had helped me as young adult begin to understand the culture which I had been born into.

For those who are interested and would like to learn more about participating in one of JNF's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips, please check out <http://www.jnf.org>.

A Wider Bridge

(continued from page 7)

stake in Israel's future. We find that a common theme in the stories of LGBTQ Jews is a desire for wholeness, the chance to be all that we are, Jewish and queer together, with pride in all of our identities. There is great joy in the discovery that a

taste of this wholeness can be experienced in Israel, our Jewish homeland.

What led you to create this organization?

Five years ago, as I considered my own experience in the Jewish world relative to Israel, I was struck by (and saddened by) the feeling that Israel had been reduced to something that we only argued about... or worse, something we didn't talk about at all. Israel felt too important to Jewish life, too central to Jewish peoplehood, to be boiled down to an argument, or forgotten about all together.

I began to feel that something more fundamental was needed, more foundational. I wanted to offer people something different, not an argument, but a relationship, a chance to engage with real Israelis, to see the human face of Israel, a chance to care, a chance, really, to fall in love with Israel.

What do you mean when you say that A Wider Bridge is "pro-Israel?"

Israel is a complicated place, with a complex history. When we say that we are pro-Israel, we mean that we believe that Israel is the most important project of the Jewish people, and we affirm the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish and democratic state. We affirm that Jews are a people as well as a religion, entitled to self-determination in the one place that could be rightfully called our homeland. And we strongly oppose BDS, the movement that advocates for Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment against Israel. We believe that the global Jewish community requires a vibrant Israel and a vibrant Diaspora, and that each must care deeply about the other. We aspire to an Israel that is proudly pluralistic, and in which the rights of all minorities, including LGBTQ people, are protected. And while we don't minimize the complexity of the Middle East conflict, we support and pray for a solution that provides peace and self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians.

A WIDER BRIDGE

2014 LGBTQ ISRAEL MISSION

OCTOBER 21-30, 2014

INSPIRING POWERFUL SPIRITUAL

Join A Wider Bridge for our 4th annual trip for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) persons, partners, friends and allies. The 9 night journey takes us to the desert, Tel Aviv, the Galilee and Jerusalem, connecting modern Israeli life with our deep historical roots.

Pricing: \$2700 double occupancy. Single supplement is \$765
For more info: awiderbridge.org/israel-2014

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- Broch, Seattle

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Patsy H. Weber in memory of Ernest Weiner, father of Rebecca Weiner.

Julie Einhorn & Jennifer Gandy in memory of Ernest Henry Weiner.

Sue Bojdak in honor of Ella Rosenblatt's & Eliana Frank's b'nei mitzvah; also in appreciation of Randy Weiss & Andrew Ramer.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in honor of Eliana Frank's bat mitzvah.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Sue Bojdak in appreciation of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Marjorie Hilsenrad in appreciation of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Ernest & Kathleen Friedlander

Karen Schiller in memory of Batya Kalis.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Judith Wolfe in memory of Herman Bender, father of Wayne Bender.

Ernest & Kathleen Friedlander

Michael Kalb in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Phil Newman—grandparents of Ian Mitchell Rich.

The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Events Fund

Allan Berenstein in appreciation of Jonathan Funk & in honor of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in memory of Bob Emerson.

Jonathan Funk in honor of Cantor Sharon Bernstein, Carolyn Reiser, Karen Segal, Judy Gaboyes, Ariel Bernstein Spagnolo, Sharyn Saslafsky, Nancy Meyer, Karen Schiller and in memory of Minnie Wiseman.

James Carlson in memory of Rosemary Halloran.

Jonathan Funk in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in memory of Batya Kalis.

General Fund

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Hilda Rosenfeld

James Carlson

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Susan Tacherra in memory of Norman Hilsenrad, brother of Marjorie Hilsenrad.

Noelle Herrnberger

Allan Berenstein in memory of Isabel Fishman, Noah Nacamulli, Ron Gertz, & Norma Faini-Pick.

Mark Pressler

Ron Lezell in memory of his father, Sam Lezell.

Eric Keitel & Aaron Cooper

Paul & Victoria Ehrlich

Sylvia Storey in memory of Batya Kalis.

Ron Lezell in memory of Batya Kalis.

Gerald B. Rosenstein in memory of Batya Kalis.

Ellen Schaefer in memory of Batya Kalis.

Sara Jane Anderson in memory of Batya Kalis.

Mark Mackler & Wendell Choo in honor of Eliana Frank's bat mitzvah.

Susan Unger & Pam Erwin in memory of Batya Kalis.

Robert Tat in memory of Batya Kalis.

Robert Tat in honor of Eliana Frank's bat mitzvah.

James Carlson in memory of Richard Roginski & Robert Buchbinder.

Dennis & Kristen Korkos in memory of Noah Jacob Nacamulli.

Susan Tubbesing in memory of her mother, Ann Kohout.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Robert Buchbinder.

Ms. Judith A. Stein in memory of Batya Kalis.

Karen Schiller in memory of Stanley Jacob Tyler, father of Michael Tyler.

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Mindy Oppenheim

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36th Anniversary

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Deena Lahn & Mary Schroeder

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Siddur Bookplates

Allan Berenstein in memory of Allen Harris.

Jane Matlaw in memory of Stanley Jacob Tyler, father of Michael Tyler.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsor in honor or memory of a loved one or friend;

Flowers—\$130

Friday Oneg—\$180

Saturday Kiddush—\$36

Shared sponsorships are welcome

Thank you to these generous sponsors:

February 14-15

Flowers sponsored by Mitchell and Donna Yates and Ann and Lou Bojdak *in honor of Itai Bojdak-Yates's bar mitzvah.*

Oneg sponsored by Jay Cohen *in memory of his father, Phillip Cohen.*

Saturday kiddush sponsored by Deb Yates and Sue Bojdak *in honor of Itai Bojdak-Yates's bar mitzvah.*

February 21-22

Flowers sponsored by Rose-Anne Donnor Colt *in memory of her father, Isaac C. Donnor.*

Oneg sponsored by Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara *in honor of Paul Cohen.*

February 28- March 1

Flowers and Saturday kiddush sponsored by the Rosenblatt and Rapp family *in honor of the bat mitzvah of Ella Rosenblatt.*

Friday Night Pizza sponsored by Liz Noteware and Angie Dalfen.

March 7-8

Oneg sponsored by James Carlson *in memory of his father, Ray Carlson.*

March 14-15

Flowers sponsored by Carol Barnett *in memory of her father, Phillip Barnett and her brother, Howard Barnett.*

March 21-22

Flowers sponsored by Drs. Barbara and Len Frank, Eliana's grandparents, *in honor of her becoming a bat mitzvah.*

Kiddush sponsored by the family of Eliana Frank *in honor of her becoming a bat mitzvah.*

Our Legacy Community

The following have all submitted Letters of Intent to leave a bequest to CSZ. Many thanks, once again, to you all.

Your name could be on this list too! Please email if you would like a letter: irene.ogus@gmail.com

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Rabbi Camille Shira Angel
Marianne Balin
Jesse (Shai) Begley
Dan Bellm & Rabbi Yoel Kahn
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Alan Gordon
Sarita Groisser
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Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum
Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden
Batya Kalis
Rose Katz
Tom Lakritz
Walter Leiss
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Sharyn Saslafsky
Karen Schiller
Andrew Schwartz
Arthur Slepian
William "Bill" Smith
Charles Spiegel
Howard Steiermann
Rob Tat
Lee Ann Thompson
& Elizabeth M. Katz
Susan Tubbesing
Deborah Udin
Dana Vinicoff
Larry Wexler
Gary Winter
Dennis R. Ybarra
Frank Yellin & Mark Showalter
Jonathan Zimman
Mike Zimmerman
Ami Zussman

New members

Linda Edelstein and Marion Gillen

Naches

Mazel Tov to

Itai Bojdak-Yates on his bar mitzvah

Ella Rosenblatt on her bat mitzvah

Eliana Frank on her bat mitzvah

Our Condolences to

James Carlson on the loss of his friend, Bob Emerson.

Wendy Brummer on the loss of her step-father, Quentin Ingerson.

Sharyn Saslafsky on the loss of her aunt, Bessye Friedman.

Diana Buchbinder, Jeane Redsecker and Aaron Buchbinder on the loss of Diana's brother, Robert Buchbinder.

All the family and friends of Batya Kalis, our cherished member.

Michael Tyler and Amy Schustack on the death of Michael's father, Stanley Jacob Tyler.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Dan Bellm and Adam Bellm Kahn on the death of Yoel's brother, Zevi Seth Kahn.

Robert Gutterman on the loss of his aunt, Lillian Delfine Benson

Member Yahrzeits

May

- 9 Richard Inlander
- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 Jerome Davis
- 13 David Delroy
- 14 Thomas Yazman
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 19 Allan Altman
- 20 Robert Coffman
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loebel

June

- 2 Jay Feinstein
- 2 Mark B. Feldman
- 8 Robert N. Mackey
- 8 Judy Macks
- 9 Duff Kreitzberg
- 14 John Atteridg
- 14 Mirtha Beal
- 15 Barry Siegel
- 16 Michael Randall
- 16 Richard Rath
- 17 Joe Zygielbaum
- 20 William E. Valentine
- 24 David Shaber

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Annual Meeting **Wednesday, May 21st**

6 pm—light dinner

7 pm—Business Meeting

AGENDA:

Election of Officers and Va'ad members

Approval of Budget for 2014 -15

ASKARAH (Remembrance) of Bill Schlichter by Tiela Chalmers

Volunteer Recognition